

Minutes for Tree & Forest Committee Meeting

Monday February 22, 2016 4:00PM Town Library

Approved at
 5/2/2016
 Meeting

1. Call to order at 4pm. Attended by Jim Neureuther, Paula Byrdey, Kacy Westwood, Nicholas DeCandia
2. Minutes of Dec 7 2015 Meeting approved as written, unanimous ayes.
3. Treasurer's Report & FY17 Town Budget
 - a. Formal Request Submitted to Town Adm for \$750 budget in FY17 for Tree Committee. Follows on agreement from last year to step up budget over 3 yr.
 - b. FY16 Account 100 balance is \$0. (Town FY16 \$550 budget used up)
 - c. Revolving Fund Account Balance is \$5,379.75

\$	5,805.72		11/16/2015	fund raise	\$ 1,238.00	proceeds from Texas Hold'em Nov 15 after paying 50:50, Poker, Skyline
\$	5,629.97		11/16/2015	expense	\$ (175.75)	Mass State Lottery Comm. 5% tax due on gross proceeds of poker
\$	5,729.97		1/5/2016	donation	\$ 100.00	Robert and Lillian Fraker PO Box 271 (or 88 Bailey Rd?)
\$	5,379.75		1/11/2016	expense	\$ (350.22)	Invoice Aldam Press for qty 1350 color newsletters, folded
\$	5,429.75		1/30/2016	donation	\$ 50.00	JoAnn & Lee Hauge 4 Catherine St Pittsfield, 01201

- i. \$100 donation from Robert/Lilian Fraker deposited (Thank you sent).
 - ii. \$50 donation from Lee/Joann Hauge deposited (Thank you sent)
 - iii. Payment \$350.22 submitted for Aldam Press newsletter cost.
4. Tree City Certification Status for 2015
 - a. Application completed. Signed by Paul Sieloff. Mailed Jan 23, 2016.
5. Year End Newsletter 2015 Wrap-up
 - a. 1350 color copies, folded by Aldam Print cost \$350.22. I have received complements. Color print made it "pop". We should do color again.
6. Arbor Day Plans 2016
 - a. Date set for May 13. Ideas to make it have a spooky theme for Friday 13th? Paula will act as liaison with Ms Mello (3rd Grade teacher) to perhaps have the kids tree art be on Spooky/Creepy Tree theme as well as poems? Perhaps decorate trees in Arboretum with Fri 13th images or "bugs" that represent tree pests. Have kids find them and do a learning about tree pests? Jim will inform Robert Fraker about May 13th date for music accompaniment.
 - b. Ideas on gift for 3rd graders? Perhaps the bugs used for tree pests.
 - c. Option to plant a tree for Arbor Day 2016? (we should wait to see how all trees planted last year fare before we make plans to plant a new tree)
 - d. Also Ms Mello wants to plan a hike for 3rd graders, perhaps we can make this an activity that is linked to Arbor Day but not likely on same day. Places? Mt Greylock trails at base lodge, constitution Hill, or Balance Rock trails (all are in

Lanesboro). Mt Greylock base lodge offers facilities for kids and we can probably get Jude Stehl(?) to help do an educational walk with kids. Perhaps do lunch outside at the lodge? Must check with Ms Mello to see what she has in mind.

7. Tree Maintenance/Planting Plans for 2016

- a. Contacted Race Mt. Ron Yapple had viewed King Elmer early Dec 2015. Canopy looks good. No need to prune in 2016. Injections recommended @ 18 month since DED strain is becoming resistant to inoculation but can only be done when tree is in full foliage (Jun, Jul, Aug). In northeast this means a short cycle June one year followed by Aug next year, then skip a year. Concern is tree stress. Ron will get recommendation from experts. King Elmer was last injected Aug 2014 so likely we need to do in June 2016. We may need to remove some soil around roots so injection can be done more into the root system vs low on trunk. This is more effective. Also a well-connected prof emeritus from UMASS biology is getting involved in identifying champion trees in Mass. (some politics involved). Ron will be taking him to see champion trees in Berkshires. I asked to be contacted when this occurs.
- b. Contact John Renzi on making tree signs for all donated trees. Also Survey all trees and replace signs as needed for Arboretum at School, Laston Park, Memorial Park. Jim and Nicholas will do a walkabout before next meeting.

8. Fundraising Plans 2016

- a. weekend Nov 12/13 reserved with Berkshire Poker. Question on Sat evening vs Sunday afternoon. Players would like Sat eve. Committee agrees to support Sat evening. Jim N contacted Skyline and we have option for Sat eve set aside.

9. Other Business

- a. Paul Sieloff gave Committee a mounted "bug" (Asian Longhorn Beetle) with an info booklet. We can incorporate into our learning for Arbor Day
- b. Updated Volunteer time to include stuffing newsletters for Town Clerk, etc
- c. Update Expense Items. No new ones to report.
- d. Committee Membership: Committee Accepted Anne Pasko resignation with deep regret. Signed a letter to send to Anne thanking her for her Committee contributions. Letter left with Town Secretary informing her that Anne Pasko has resigned and her position is now vacant. Letter left with Town Secretary asking that Selectmen appoint Nicholas DeCandia officially to the Tree & forest Comm.
- e. Woodland Educational Trail on Town Property off Ore Bed Rd (town gravel pit)
 - i. Bill Girard is willing to walk the property (some Sunday?). Jim will contact committee members when this occurs.

- f. Online Compliance Training Status (open meeting, conflict of interest) must be completed by committee members. Jim N completed training and submitted email and paper Certificate for conflict of interest to Town Clerk. Jim will email Paula with info from Town Clerk that contains links needed to complete training. Kacy will attend to the training now that she is done with her knee surgery. Nicholas will be trained after his appointment is approved and he is sworn in.
 - g. Town Website info for Tree Committee should be reviewed and updated as needed. This will be a priority after Arbor Day for us.
 - h. Town Holiday Tree. Kacy reported that there is a move by a Lanesborough resident to raise \$\$ for a tree to be planted in Memorial Park to serve as a Town decorated tree at Christmas. Tree committee members express some concern about location since a specimen Christmas tree will need space to grow and will not thrive if shaded by larger trees as at Memorial Park. It is also noted that St Lukes church decorates a tree in front and conducts a Christmas event. At this time the Tree and Forest committee takes no position on the effort to plant a tree in Memorial Park to serve as a town Christmas tree. If asked specifically in the future to review such a plan, we will discuss and offer our feedback at that time.
10. Next Meeting planned Monday May 2 4pm To finalize for Arbor Day on May 13. Members who have identified prospective new members should inform them about the May 13th Arbor Day and also invite to the May 2 meeting to check us out. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Actions from this Meeting

- 1. Jim send email with training links to Paula. Done
- 2. Jim give Anne Pasko Resignation info to Town Secretary to act on. Done
- 3. Jim give Nicholas DeCandia appointment request by Selectmen to town Secretary to act on. Done
- 4. Jim give town clerk signed copy of Dec 7, 2015 minutes. Done
- 5. Jim contact Robert Fraker on May 13th date for Arbor Day. Done
- 6. Jim send letter to Anne Pasko thanking for her service to the Committee. done
- 7. Jim contact Jim Midas at Skyline for Sat eve date Nov poker tournament. done
- 8. Jim call Nicholas about walk to view trees
- 9. Paula contact Ms Mele about Spooky Arbor Day and the planned field trip with 3rd grade class.
- 10. All members do some google research on ideas for a spooky Arbor Day, especially on Pinterest (Kacy)